

instead think it is arrogance and a lack of touch with reality.

I ask myself why I would even want to give the majority party advice to do better if, in fact, the electorate is likely to make them pay for their arrogance. But I must say the longer they persist in this denial, the harder it will be for America to correct their course. Maybe the majority party will suffer for their arrogance, but the U.S. will suffer more.

□ 1015

TRADE MUST BE FAIR

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was one of the Members down in Mexico this past Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Sunday at the WTO negotiations. I think a lot of Members of Congress were concerned that, again, this country might give in to what other countries wanted just for the sake of more world trade.

I would like to commend the Bush administration, and Robert Zelnick, our trade ambassador, for holding the line and not giving away things just for the sake of more world trade that eventually might have hurt our manufacturing business and our agriculture. I think no longer can we afford to have world trade just for the sake of world trade. It has got to be fair. It cannot be to the long-term disadvantage of America.

STOP DEFICIT SPENDING

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 860 days since President Bush and the Republican party embarked on their economic plan for our country.

During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,167,994,451,600.72. According to the Web site for the Bureau of the Public Debt at the U.S. Department of Treasury, yesterday at 4:30 p.m. eastern daylight time the Nation's outstanding debt was \$6,808,319,837,959.49. Furthermore, in fiscal year 2003, interest on our national debt or the debt tax, D-E-B-T tax, is \$304,978,878,641.11. That is through August 31.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop deficit spending and pay this debt down.

LIMITS ON MEDICAL LIABILITY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend on Saturday, Texas, my home State, passed a constitutional amendment to limit and cap noneconomic damages in medical liability lawsuits.

Texas now, as a result of passing this bold constitutional amendment, will enjoy lower liability premiums. In fact, my old insurer of record, Texas Medical Liability Trust, announced they would reduce premiums by 10 to 12 percent beginning this week.

Texas will control costs in medical care by this bold legislation and keep themselves competitive in the world market. One might ask, Mr. Speaker, do we then still need H.R. 5, the bill that was passed by this House that now languishes in the other body? I would submit that very strongly we do.

Mr. Speaker, this summer I was in Nome, Alaska, and talked to the medical staff at the hospital there, a medical staff that cannot hire an anesthesiologist because they cannot afford the liability premium. This means that doctors who practice obstetrics have to send their patients to Anchorage for cesarean sections, a 90-minute plane ride, and I am given to understand the weather in Nome, Alaska, is sometimes bad.

At Columbia University in New York, they cannot attract good medical students into their residency program. In fact, I was told by their residency director they are taking applicants that they would not have even interviewed 5 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Senate to pick up and pass limits on medical liability.

WE NEED TARGETED TAX CUTS

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we lost another one. WCI Steel, Incorporated, in Warren, Ohio, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy just yesterday, one of the last major steel mills in the old "steel valley" that ran through Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. 1,740 workers are just going to hope they get a paycheck on Thursday. They have been bleeding cash for the last 3 years. Losses in 10 of its last 11 quarters produced \$163.6 million in red ink.

The ultimate irony, this happened just a few days within the anniversary of 1977 when the closing of Youngstown Sheet and Tube's Campbell Works that wiped out nearly 5,000 jobs in one day.

This has been going on since 1977. It is time for this country to adopt a manufacturing policy that is going to start creating jobs back in the good old U.S. of A, not tax cuts for the top 1 percent but targeted tax cuts to allow investment here in the United States of America.

It is not going to happen with smoke and mirrors. It is not going to happen with the press conference. We are getting our clock cleaned by China, and it is time the United States wakes up just before it is too late.

TIME TO FOCUS ON ENFORCEMENT OF TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I support free trade in principle, but I am troubled about its practice in America today. The State of Indiana has lost more manufacturing jobs than any other State in the Union. Virtually every major manufacturer in my eastern Indiana District has shed jobs since this recession began in the latter months of 2000, with one exception, and this week that company announced the elimination of 600 jobs in an entire foundry in central Indiana.

I just came from a meeting with the Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans. I commend the Secretary and the President for the appointment of a new Assistant Secretary of Manufacturing for establishing an unfair trade practices team. It is time for this administration to focus on enforcement of our trade agreements, with special emphasis on China and Mexico. Make them be as good as their word, Mr. Speaker, and it is also time to explain to American industry that shifting jobs overseas for short-term profits serves neither them, their shareholders nor their Nation in the long term.

HONORING JIM SHEEHAN

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a man who dedicated his life to public service and once sought to become a Member of this House as well. Mr. Speaker, the people of Bergen County and the rest of New Jersey lost a dedicated public servant, a devoted father and husband and family man and a friend of mine when Jim Sheehan lost his battle to cancer.

Mr. Sheehan spent the majority of his career in public service. He worked for a while for the people of Bergen County for a period of time. In 1976 and 1978 he was the Mayor of Wyckoff, and after that he became a freeholder, from 1991 to 2002, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Bergen County.

After serving as freeholder for the county, he took on the very difficult task of being the chairman of the Republican party in Bergen County. Bergen is the last largest Republican organization in the State of New Jersey, and though he worked very hard and tirelessly strengthening the party of Lincoln, he did so while remaining friends and having the respect of people on both sides of the aisle.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 5th Congressional District, particularly the folks over in Bergen County, I offer my prayers and condolences to the friends and family of Jim Sheehan.

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT ON ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR \$87 BILLION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, all of us who have had the both pleasant and unpleasant experience of seeing our wounded young at our military hospitals, pleasant because they are so brave and so encouraging, and unpleasant because we see lives that have been so severely damaged, want us to be successful in the rebuilding and the democratization of Iraq. But I think it is imperative that the oversight responsibilities of this Congress be used now more than ever before maybe in our history and, that is, to determine the utilization of the administration's request of \$87 billion.

It would be unconscionable for us to move forward on this request without understanding and persisting that the United States secures a U.N. resolution to include our allies both in burden sharing in the amount of money and troops, that we have a detailed exit strategy and we begin to work with our NATO allies, that we have full public congressional hearings for all of America to hear on the basis of the existence of the weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons, and finally, Mr. Speaker, that we protect and take care of our returning soldiers and veterans, as well as their families.

We hope that we can vote on this, but we must vote on it separately and not together.

MANUFACTURING MUST BE PROTECTED

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, manufacturing is an endangered species that we must work now to protect. Some say manufacturing is no longer vital to our economy, the service industries will compensate.

I agree with Henry Kissinger when he says, "I think that a country has to have a massive industrial base in order to play a significant role in the world. And to that extent, outsourcing of jobs concerns me." What made the American economy strong was industrial innovation. America led the world in new production methods and increased efficiency. How can we be innovators if we have no industry left?

With our strong industry, we built the most impressive fighting force the world has ever seen, a military that keeps us safe and the world free, but when our satellites are made in China, bomb parts made in Switzerland, night vision crystals in France and the Pentagon now wanting to buy 30,000 flight jackets with Pakistani goat hair, as opposed to U.S. goat hair, are we defending our economy or supporting the economies of other countries?

In some sectors of defense, we have been forced to recognize foreign technology is now vastly superior to our own. We must, we must stand by U.S. manufacturing to maintain a strong defense base.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

HOSPITAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE ACT OF 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 659) to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act regarding the requirements for mortgage insurance under such Act for hospitals.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hospital Mortgage Insurance Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING NEED AND FEASIBILITY FOR HOSPITALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 242(d) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-7) is amended to read as follows:

"(4)(A) The Secretary shall require satisfactory evidence that the hospital will be located in a State or political subdivision of a State with reasonable minimum standards of licensure and methods of operation for hospitals and satisfactory assurance that such standards will be applied and enforced with respect to the hospital.

"(B) The Secretary shall establish the means for determining need and feasibility for the hospital, if the State does not have an official procedure for determining need for hospitals. If the State has an official procedure for determining need for hospitals, the Secretary shall require that such procedure be followed before the application for insurance is submitted, and the application shall document that need has also been established under that procedure."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by this subsection (a) shall take effect and apply as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EFFECT OF REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—Any authority of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to issue regulations to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a) may not be construed to affect the effectiveness or applicability of such amendment under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

SEC. 3. EXEMPTION FOR CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 242 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-7) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by inserting "unless the facility is a critical access hospital (as that term is defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm)(1)))" after "tuberculosis"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(i) TERMINATION OF EXEMPTION FOR CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The exemption for critical access hospitals under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall have no effect after July 31, 2006.

"(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years after July 31, 2003, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress detailing the effects of the exemption of critical access hospitals from the provisions of subsection (b)(1)(B) on—

"(A) the provision of mortgage insurance to hospitals under this section; and

"(B) the General Insurance Fund established under section 519."

SEC. 4. STUDY OF BARRIERS TO RECEIPT OF INSURED MORTGAGES BY FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall conduct a study on the barriers to the receipt of mortgage insurance by Federally qualified health centers (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B))) under section 1101 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1749aaa), or other programs under that Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit a report regarding any appropriate legislative and regulatory changes needed to enable Federally qualified health centers to access mortgage insurance under section 1101 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1749aaa), or other programs under that Act to—

(1) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This morning we are considering H.R. 659, the Hospital Mortgage Insurance Act of 2003. This legislation will make substantial improvements to the FHA Hospital Mortgage Program, making it easier for hospitals to obtain mortgage insurance.

This vital program provides credit enhancement, merges public and private resources, and makes available billions of dollars in new hospital construction and improvements.

Hospitals, Mr. Speaker, face significant financial challenges when providing care to patients, we all know that, who are covered by Medicare and Medicaid. At the same time, improvements in technology and health care knowledge necessitate capital improvements such as additions and renovations to existing buildings. It is generally accepted that modern health care facilities will improve the quality of life and the health of the population.

In an effort to assist States to provide modern health care facilities, Congress enacted section 242 of the National Housing Act in 1968.

Section 242 permits FHA to insure mortgages of hospital sponsors used to finance the replacement, modernization and rehabilitation of inefficient existing facilities. Low interest rate costs attributable to FHA insured financing, as well as the development of more cost-efficient facilities, substantially reduces both provider and Federal and State reimbursement.